

# AMERICANS WITH TITLES AND NEAR TO TITLES



Boston.—"Some titles are bad and some titles are worse, but there are no good titles," a sarcastic American father is said to have exclaimed apropos of the marriage of a relative to a foreign nobleman.

He was not altogether right, nor was he altogether wrong. The Old World is flooded with titles, good, bad and indifferent. The bad and the indifferent greatly outnumber the good. American girls have some of the good, possibly more of the bad, and, perhaps, still more of the indifferent.

There is a heraldry office in London that spends all its time straightening out the kinks in the peerage. With some 500 American women married to foreigners, duly handled as to their names, some of the freaks of aristocracy's ratings are apropos.

In America it is self-evident—though some children disprove it—that a parent is superior to the child. Yet an American woman is on record to disprove the fact. The late widow of Isaac M. Singer married a nobleman Duc de Camperolles and later M. Paul Sohier, a plain Frenchman. But her daughter is Duchesse Decazes among the French aristocracy, and Duchesse de Gloucester in the high lights of Denmark. If it isn't a case of daughter out-distancing the mother, it is the nearest approach to the condition.

Some of these daughters have become duchesses of England, princesses of Russia, duchesses of France, princesses of Italy, duchesses of Spain or Portugal, and still others have obtained titles of the Holy Roman Empire and papal titles by marriage. There are said to be about 200 of them all told, but how do they rank among each other? Where in the scale of high-sounding handles to matrimonially acquired surnames doth rank Lady Tennessee Claflin Cook, who is the widow of an English baronet, and who, through him, is Viscountess Montserrat in the peerage of Portugal? And why does not the employ the higher Portuguese title instead of the inferior English one?

## Peculiarities of Peerages.

The truth is that peerages are now worthy of but half respect. Only two of them are really to be very seriously taken, the English and the dignities confined to the mediocrity of Teutonic families. And the latter of these is not open to American ambitions, as Miss Mary Wister Wheeler of Philadelphia discovered in 1890, when she was married to Count Maximilian Papenheim, of that ilk, and learned, when Berlin heard of the event, that she could never be more than a morganatic wife.

Recently it transpired that English titles are not always exactly what they seem. It came out that one peerage was obtained by the typically American practice of contributing to a political campaign fund. It took \$1,250,000 in that case to make a baron of the United Kingdom, and at the same time \$150,000 was required to secure a knighthood that labors under the disadvantage of not being heritable. Scandal aside, however, the British peerage is the lot of its kind. An American girl looking for foreign honors can better realize her ambition in marrying a mere English baronet than by contracting half a

dozen alliances with Russian princes, papal princes and such.

There are half a dozen kinds of dukes, spelled according to the genius of their geographical situation. There are dukes in England who are real aristocrats. When, therefore, an American girl, Miss Zimmerman of Cincinnati, captured the heart of his grace of Manchester, she got a titular matrimonial prize.

## French Ducal System.

There are ducs in France, but their only value is as contributors to the government's income, by the sarcastically graded scale that puts more of a price on them the farther up they go. One exception may be made to this general rule, for the royalists still hold leases, and to them a title is inlaid with meaning and dignity. The fourth Duc de Dino, who unsuccessfully indulged his predilection for American wives on two occasions, would be entitled to enter this society, and either she who was born Elizabeth Curtis of New York or the previously divorced wife of Frederick W. Livingston could have accompanied him during their reigns over a heart whose unhappiness became rather well known at divorce court.

The royalist society constitutes the worth of a French title, but only two per cent. of all titles of La Belle Paris and elsewhere in France are legitimate. The others are jokes.

## His Turkish Title.

In all except the mediocrity families—formerly royal German families—there are women to represent the greatest country without a nobility. Even at Constantinople, where you can buy the order of Osmanieh and the lower grades dirt cheap, there is one of our women. She has had the wings of her dignity clipped, but she is still Margaret Fehim Pasha.

Her husband was, till a few months ago, chief of the Yildiz secret police, likewise a distant relative of the sultan. The German ambassador objected to a little ploysantry of his, and Fehim is now in real exile. But his wife, who was a circus rider, married a week after rencontre, is still the wife of a pasha. That dignity isn't worth much, and in the matter of value of titles Turkey, for once, agrees with the rest of Europe.

A Russian prince is a travesty on language, actually and literally. Properly, he isn't a prince at all, according to respectable English standards, but the Almanach de Gotha mistranslated the word "kniaz" that way, and the mistake of significance has persisted like the Almanach. Its correct English synonym is lord. The incident that led to the present English translation occurred at Paris, where a presumptuous one of these squireens appeared at Louis XIV's court. Etymologically, however, "prince" is the proper rendering.

## Russian Princes Plentiful.

Prince Michael Cantacuzene, who married Miss Julia Dent Grant, is one of these, but he has escaped the additional title, a "thinned-out prince." Every member of the family of a Russian kniaz is a kniaz, male or female. Count up a generation or two in mathematical terms, and it will not be surprising that there is a bona fide Prince Krapotkine driving a Peters-

burg cab, a Prince Dolgoruki who is a stoveholder, or a Princess Galatinia in a fourth-rate circus.

A Dolgoruki ancestor was once king of Russia, and the Galatin and Krapotkine families are among its most honorable and ancient. Occasionally a "zakhnadly kniaz" has fallen so low that he is but a peasant, and thus minus the title of noble that is given to the educated subjects of the czar.

This Russian disregard of primogeniture observance, which does so much to keep the English peerage up to the standard, obtains also in Germany. Certain immunities and privileges, besides the satisfaction of defined precedence, make the English lord a marked and envied person. Most German and Prussian nobles are devoid of extra privilege, and their children all bear the titles of their fathers.

The house of Hatzfeldt is one of the fairly numerous exceptions. The heir of Prince Alfred, present head of one branch, is Prince Francis, whose wife was the adopted daughter of the late Collis P. Huntington. On the other hand, the late ambassador to Germany was only Count Hatzfeldt. His case was particularly interesting because he had a genuine love affair with an American woman, Miss Helen Moulton, of Albany. He married her in 1893, and was forced to separate from her by Prince Bismarck, who made it a rule never to allow a German diplomat to marry a foreigner. The separation lasted until Bismarck went out of power, when the two promptly remarried.

## Many Times a Duchess.

There is one American woman who is a duchess on four commonplace counts. This is the Duchesse de Dino, who is the same of Talleyrand-Perigord and of Valençay in France, and Prussian duchess of Sagan.

Titles in Italy date back a long time, and had their origin in the times when there were free cities, each of which had its own collection of nobility. The title of prince there is not awe-inspiring, and the others of lower grade fall far short of honor. The Italian equivalent of Burke's Peerage will look up your ancestry, determine your heraldic bearings and include a history of your origin in its next edition for a nominal sum.

The Vatican grants titles. The parvenus work so hard getting titles unto themselves that really respectable nobility have got out of the habit of using their legitimate ones. Prince Ferdinand Colonna married Miss Eva Bryant Mackay, but in that family the title is disregarded. They consider it really more aristocratic to call each other simply "Don" and "Donna." The Rospiogliosi and Ruspolini families, which together number nearly a dozen American women among their wives, are as aristocratic and as particular.

## Long String of Honors.

Yet even persons with the plain name of John Smith will very likely admit that Don Francesco Rospiogliosi is quite a come-down from Prince Giuseppe Francesco Maria Filippo di Rospiogliosi-Gioeni, duca di Zagario, principe di Castiglione, marchese di Giuliana, conte di Chiusa, Barone di Valcorrente, Barone della Miraglia, Signor

and he married Miss Virginia Lowery, of Washington, when he was in the latter city.

A curious feature of the Spanish nobility is the manner of inheriting it. The dignities descend from father to son, but if there is no son the daughter takes the title, and it is conferred on her husband what time she marries.

## Prince Owns Gambling House.

The prince of Monaco, who runs Monte Carlo, was married to Alice Heine, of New Orleans, and the present heir to the gambling receipts is her stepson, Prince Reched Bey Czaykowski is a Turkish diplomat, but not very important as a Turk. Miss Edith Collins, of New York, was the princess' maiden name.

Boston is not wonderfully well represented among the titled Americans abroad. Foremost, perhaps, among Boston girls of this description is the countess of Edia, who, on June 10, 1869, married the late king consort of Portugal, Ferdinand. She was Miss Elsie Hensler, and received the morganatic dignity of Countess Edia, which she still bears.

Then there is Lady Playfair, nee Miss Edith Russell, who visits Boston annually, and Mme. Jussierand, wife of the French ambassador at Washington, who was the daughter of George Richards, of Boston, who founded the banking firm of Monroe & Co., Paris. Lady Gilbert Carter, wife of the governor of Barbados, was Miss Gertrude Parker, of Boston.

The curiosities that have grown up around the matter of nobility would fill a volume. In England, where the heraldry office is more than it is elsewhere, the technicalities are best observed.

There is the matter of the courtesy title, for instance. There is Baron Wiloughby d'Eresby, who is married to Miss Elvise Breese, of New York, and who isn't a baron at all. He is simply eldest son of the earl of Ancaster, who has more than one extra title that is inferior to his own of earl. His father has virtually loaned that of his barony to his eldest son until he shall succeed. So the eldest son of the duchess of Marlborough, who is known as the marquess of Blanford by the same courtesy.

## Young American Mother of Peer.

She who was Miss Gertrude Violet Twining, of Halifax, is the youngest of American mothers of peers. It was in 1902 that she married the marquis of Donegal, she being 22 and he 80. Their son, now marquis, was born a year before his aged father's death. He is a marquis of the Irish peerage, which is quite distinct from that of Great Britain or Scotland. A peer of Great Britain sits in the house of lords because he is a peer. Duke, earl, marquis, viscount or baron, it makes no difference. But Ireland sends only a certain number, and Scotland a few more. The rest not sitting in the lords can stand for the commons.

But that is material for a book. England, it should be noted, is not overburdened with nondescript princes like some other countries. A prince there is a really and truly prince, son of royalty. A princess is just as real



di Aldone, di Burzio, di Contessa and di Trapetto, Roman noble, patrician of Pistoja, Venice and Genoa.

There are 200 dukes, 900 marquises and thousands of counts in Spain, according to a recent account. Legitimate Spanish nobility, or, better, aristocracy, is called the grandezza, in English the grandees. It was instituted by Emperor Charles V. in 1520, so that Spain could be just like other countries in one respect.

They began a dozen in number; the legitimate members of the grandezza now are 200, and after that the popular deluge that includes the butcher, the baker and perhaps the candlestick maker. The duke de Arcos, who was once Spanish ambassador at Washington and has just retired from the post at Rome, is a real Spanish nobleman,

and just as true, even to the second generation.

The Princess Royal, for instance, who is married to the duke of Fife, has two daughters. While the princess is her royal highness, her daughters are only their highnesses, but are, nevertheless, princesses. When they grow up and marry, their children will not be princes or princesses unless they marry royalty.

The blood of England's royal family carries with it the title of prince only to the second generation. That is worlds away, in point of dignity, from cab-driving Russians or princely Germans, whose dignity rests on the chance that they are heads of families.

During the seven years 1899-1905 the deaths in India numbered 4,059,500.

# IS COOK FOR A KING.

M. MENAGER, FRENCHMAN, A GENIUS IN HIS ART.

Edward VII. Pays \$10,000 Salary Yearly to Monarch of Royal Kitchen Who Prepares Meals at Buckingham Palace.

London.—One of the privileges which the sovereign is still allowed to retain in democratic England is the appointment of his own chef.

When there is a change of ministry King Edward, at the dictation of the prime minister, has to take on a new lord chamberlain, who is nominally the boss of the upstairs department of the royal household, and a new lord steward, who is supposed to have supreme control of the culinary department.

But the real monarch of the palace kitchen, the "chef-cuisinier," as he is officially styled in good old Anglo-Saxon, is not subject to the vicissitudes of politics. Whatever party is in power he continues to hold his job at his majesty's pleasure, which is just as long as he contrives to satisfy his majesty's highly cultivated epicurean tastes.

This is a matter which really affects the king more closely than a change of administration, for whether the liberals or the conservatives are in a majority, he can exercise very little control over the government.

The august functionary who ministers to the royal appetite is M. Juste Menager, a native of the land of good cooks, and something over 40 years of age. He gets \$10,000 a year, which is \$500 more than is paid the first sea lord of the admiralty, the famous Sir "Jackie" Fisher, who practically runs the British navy.

M. Menager has an easy billet. He is paid his big salary not so much for what he actually does, as for knowing how to do it.

So great a culinary artist is not expected to produce three masterpieces in one day. With the breakfast of the king, which is always a modest meal, he does not concern himself. He is not required to sleep under his master's roof like most of the royal menials, but lives in a private residence a short distance from Buckingham palace. He always drives to the palace, arriving there shortly after 11 o'clock. In his own private office, a sunny apartment adjoining the kitchen and overlooking lawns, he receives the luncheon carte drawn up by Lord Farquhar, the master of the king's household, and begins his day's work.

The office of the lord steward, who is nominally at the head of the gastronomic department, is practically a sinecure. It is at present filled by Lord Hawkesbury, who pockets \$10,000 a year for drawing his salary and looking imposing on state occasions.

# TO SUCCEED SECRETARY LOEB

Assistant Postmaster General Hitchcock Slated for Post.

Washington.—Frank H. Hitchcock, who began his Washington career



FRANK H. HITCHCOCK. (Slated as Loeb's Successor as Secretary to the President.)

some time ago by ranking as the youngest chief clerk of any department, is booked to be secretary to

when his attendance is required.

If M. Menager were capable of envy he might occasionally envy the lord steward. But he has declared that he would not be happy if he were not able to practice his art. And so far as fame is concerned, as the king's chef he enjoys a far greater measure of it than is bestowed on any figure-head functionary. Besides abundance of leisure is allowed him in which to cultivate his own pet hobbies or seek gastronomic inspiration. After luncheon is served he is free to do what he pleases until six o'clock, when preparations for the great event of his domain—dinner—begin.

At his command for this work are four master cooks, and a retinue of well-trained attendants, all clad in immaculate linen. Perfect discipline prevails among them. Clockwork regimentation is required.



M. JUSTE MENAGER. (King Edward's French Chef.)

regularity is the rule. Each dish is begun and finished within a minute of the appointed time. Few words are spoken.

The king's kitchen contains something like \$10,000 worth of utensils. There are no less than 800 pots and pans, most of them of copper, and five scourers are solely employed to keep them brightly burnished. There are 4,000 knives, 3,000 forks, and as many spoons of various sizes used for cooking and kitchen purposes. For the service of the royal table there are 8,000 forks and spoons of massive silver.

Like the king himself, M. Menager is a tactful man. He knows how to please the women folk and the man who does that is sure to be popular. He has badly-challenged the opinion entertained by most exalted chefs that women are incapable of mastering the higher mysteries of the culinary art. He encourages women cooks. He employs several of them at Buckingham palace. He has declared that there are at least half a dozen women cooks in London who are capable of preparing a dinner fit for the king.

## COLON'S NEW OFFICE BUILDING.

Success of Trader Who Foresaw American Occupation of Panama.

New Orleans.—The first office building in Colon was recently opened to tenants through the enterprise of Isidore Rich, a Central American trader of this city. The building occupies a lot 60x85 feet, is of substantial construction and contains 44 rooms, every one of which has already been taken, besides the two stores on the ground floor.



First Office Building in Colon.

Mr. Rich has been trading in the tropics for a lifetime almost, and is thoroughly posted on all matters there: so years ago he foresaw the

American occupation of the isthmus of Panama and made a few investments in Colon. He established the American Trading company there and developed it into a successful enterprise.

A fact that is not generally known is that all the land upon which the city of Colon is built belongs to the Panama Railroad company, and therefore to the United States government. The land is leased for periods of five years at so much per annum, according to the location of the lot.

## Thinks He's a Dynamo.

Frenton, N. J.—Imagining that he is full of electricity and that he will charge the whole institution, George Denby, a negro convict from Burlington county, has been removed from the state prison to the state insane asylum in this city.

Denby thinks he is a living dynamo producing electricity in large quantities and continually shouts to be taken from his cell that he may not electrify the walls and steel doors. It is said that, primarily, his condition is due to imbibing large quantities of "Jersey lightning" before his incarceration in November, 1901, for 13 years for attempted criminal assault.